

**SSUDAC Meeting Summary**  
**January 16, 2014**

**Members Present:** Ernest Bland, Carmen Camacho, Dan Figueroa, Thomas Kaufman (for Yuri van Mierlo), Jon Lourie, Mel Tull, Suzy Zusy

**Members Absent:** Don Hague, Dimitri Michaud, Yuri van Mierlo

**Call to Order and Introductions:**

- Mr. Mel Tull, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.
- The committee voted unanimously to approve the November 2013 meeting summary, with one addition.

**Reports:**

**Police Briefing & Crime Report**

Sgt. Brian Tupa, Montgomery County 3<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct

- Lt. Alan Felsen is the new 3<sup>rd</sup> District lieutenant but could not attend this meeting due to training. He is replacing Lt. Elizabeth Hattenburg, who has been reassigned to Gaithersburg.
- Sixteen new officers will be sent to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District the first week of February.
- The new police station in White Oak is now scheduled to open in March. The current Silver Spring substation within Fire Station One will remain.
- Sgt. Tupa reported that a “crew” from Southeast D.C. had been breaking into cars parked in the lots of 7-11 convenience stores. The police set up a detail of officers to apprehend the group but were unsuccessful as they appeared to have moved out of the area.
- A citizen asked about car break-ins in the East Silver Spring area. Sgt. Tupa described these as crimes of opportunity and said that there did not appear to be any kind of organized group behind them.
- A citizen also inquired about door-to-door scam artists operating in East Silver Spring neighborhoods. Sgt. Tupa stated that citizens should work together and check on their neighbors having contract work done on their homes, as well as to verify all individuals that come to a private residence and offer to do unsolicited work.

### United Therapeutics Phase 3 Redevelopment

William Kominers, Lerch, Early & Brewer; Don Hoover, Oculus and Jennifer Wampler, EwingCole

- United Therapeutics is currently in the third phase of the expansion of their headquarters at Cameron St. & Spring St.
- Montgomery County Public Garage #21 at Cameron St. & Spring St. will be demolished for United Therapeutic's new building.
- The building will be a net zero building, with all of the energy required for its operation being generated on the premises.
- The building will be a total of 6 stories, with an adjacent 3 story employee parking garage featuring a rooftop terrace and solar panels.
- With the addition of solar panels, natural ventilation systems, geothermal wells and an earth labyrinth, the building's heating and cooling loads are greatly reduced. No boilers or chillers are required.
- Approximately 2,000 solar panels will be installed and the building will generate 880 megawatt hours per year.
- The streetscape plan has been designed according to County and state standards including the standard Silver Spring brick sidewalk. It also includes three retail sections.
- Amenities for the public include a terraced plaza space with a mixture of seating, gardens and solar-powered phone charging stations.
- A small performance area framed with amphitheater style seating for United Therapeutics events is included in the outdoor space, with the possibility for public use.
- The building will include an employee garden on the roof terrace, with biofiltration boxes for stormwater management and crop boxes for employees to grow food, as well as an outdoor kitchen and eating area.
- Aluminum screens will be extended around the side of the building and across the parking garage, to obscure the view of the garage while also providing ventilation.
- United Therapeutics intends to submit their site plan application by the end of January 2014.
- A 22-24 month construction period is anticipated, with an early 2015 date to begin construction.

- Mr. Jon Lourie asked about the reflectivity of the solar panels. Ms. Wampler explained that they have a matte finish and would reflect a minimal amount of sunlight.
- Mr. Ernest Bland asked if the site plan for the project is available online. Mr. Kominers indicated that it would be available after it has been filed with Park & Planning.

#### State Highway Administration Update

Christopher Bishop, State Highway Administration

- Mr. Christopher Bishop, Community Liaison for the State Highway Administration, addressed a list of nine issues prepared by Ms. Yvette Freeman with the Silver Spring Urban District:
- The 16<sup>th</sup> St. Traffic Circle - The District 3 traffic office indicates no next steps are planned for this area at this time.
- ADA Ramp Work Along Georgia Ave. - Mr. Bishop reported that this project is approximately 28% complete with an estimated completion date in late summer 2014. The SHA Safety & Resurfacing team is working on this item, with SHA's Traffic & Safety team's work on hold. Roadway patching and bus pad construction work will resume in spring.
- Colesville Rd. Walkway Area - Mr. Bishop reported that the office of Traffic and Safety had no record of work that they had done in the area. He noted that all SHA work generally involves maintenance and detours. SHA will work to minimize inconveniences wherever possible.
- The ADA Ramp "Maze" at Wayne Ave. & Georgia Ave. - Mr. Bishop stated that the main Safety and Resurfacing project along Georgia Ave. must be completed before the office of Traffic and Safety can address this area. Mr. Bishop said that he would check with Mr. John Gover on the Traffic and Safety team for an update.
- Substandard Georgia Ave. Curb & Sewage Area Work - Mr. Bishop stated that all work will be inspected according to state and federal standards. Completion of this project is estimated for late fall of 2014.
- SHA Contractor Work During The Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade - SHA anticipates that all work near the Thanksgiving Parade route will be completed before the 2014 parade.
- The Intersection of Georgia Ave., East-West Highway and Burlington Ave. - SHA's District Traffic Office will address this issue, and a traffic study may be necessary. This area is not part of the current Safety & Resurfacing project.
- Deteriorated Signal Poles at Georgia Ave. and Wayne Ave. - The office of Traffic and Safety has no plans to replace these poles at this time. Mr.

Bishop noted that the initial poles mentioned by Ms. Freeman were replaced between 2009 and 2012 with excess funding. SHA maintains an inventory of poles and works to replace them as needed. Mr. Bishop explained that weather damage occurs naturally and is not necessarily a sign that a pole needs replacement.

- SHA's Lack of Communication and Consideration with Silver Spring Agencies - Mr. Bishop said that SHA will work with the SSUD to increase communication and improve these efforts.
- Mr. Jon Lourie asked where the resurfacing of Georgia Ave. would occur. Mr. Bishop informed that it would be from 16<sup>th</sup> St. to Eastern Ave. and that areas of Georgia Ave. which have been patched would be completely repaved.
- Ms. Jane Redicker asked about ADA ramp compliance and SHA's plans to integrate the ramps into the rest of the sidewalk. Mr. Bishop asked for a list of locations of concern that he could provide to SHA's Engineering and Traffic and Safety team members to address.
- Mr. Ernest Bland mentioned that the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Circle is a particularly difficult area to maintain because more than one agency is responsible for various aspects of its maintenance.
- Ms. Freeman brought up concerns regarding the general substandard quality of SHA's work in the Silver Spring central business district. Concerns include SHA not meeting the Silver Spring streetscape standards, as well as examples of areas that need attention with regards to clearer signage, better pedestrian markings and potential traffic studies.
- Mr. Bishop confirmed that the new pedestrian crosswalks on Georgia Ave. will be high visibility crosswalks.
- Ms. Freeman referenced the intersection at Georgia, Burlington Ave. and East-West Highway and suggested moving the stop line back for vehicles to provide better visibility of the turning arrow light, in addition to improved street signage, clearly marking Georgia Ave., East-West Highway and the other streets at this intersection.

#### Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Update Suzy Zusy, Citizens Advisory Board

- Ms. Suzy Zusy updated the Advisory Committee on the status of the new Silver Spring police station and library.
- The new library will be completed at the end of 2014, and will house a coffee shop as well as Pyramid Atlantic's Art Center.

- The old library and police station sites will be submitted to the County Council to determine if other County departments can make use of the facilities.
- The current police station has undergone its reuse analysis and has received four expressions of interest from various County agencies.
- Once constructed, Progress Place will have “micro-units” in its new facility, which will be managed by the Department of Health & Human Services.
- The Commercial & Economic Development Committee has announced that the Taste of Fenton Village will take place on May 4, 2014.
- The Transportation, Energy & Environment Committee will be investigating traffic lights and BRT options in Silver Spring.
- The Neighborhoods Committee will be issuing an invitation to representatives of the neighborhood civic associations to meet on January 27, 2014.

#### New Business

- Mr. Richard Romer reported that interviews for a new District 5 Council Member to replace Ms. Valerie Ervin will begin soon. There are a total of 18 applicants and all of the resumes and cover letters are available on the Council’s website. It is anticipated that the interim District 5 Council member will be in office on January 29, 2014.
- Mr. Romer also reported that the Countywide zoning rewrite was tentatively completed on January 15, 2014, but small fixes may be made in the following months with regard to mapping.

#### Urban District Report

Ms. Yvette Freeman, Chief of Operations, Silver Spring Urban District

- Silver Spring Urban District employees formerly referred to as “temporary” are now permanent merit employees of Montgomery County Government.
- The Ruppert Landscape contract has been renewed for the final year of the contract. An RFP for the next landscape contract will go out soon.
- Ms. Freeman thanked Ms. Carmen Camacho and other Advisory Committee members for their assistance with the SSUD/Red Shirt staff holiday party.
- Ms. Jane Redicker asked about the budget impact of the Red Shirt staff merit transfers. Ms. Freeman replied that that information is not yet available.

Silver Spring Regional Area Director's Report

Mr. Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

- The Civic Building will be hosting the County's last FY15 operating budget forum on January 29, 2014.
- The County Executive will propose his FY15 recommended operating budget to the County Council on March 17.
- Mr. Rodriguez suggested the Advisory Committee prepare a letter of advice to the County Executive regarding the Silver Spring Urban District budget.
- Mr. Mel Tull asked about members of the Purple Line making a presentation to the Advisory Committee. Mr. Rodriguez replied there are a number of ongoing meetings about the Purple Line, and that he would keep the committee apprised of these. Mr. Rodriguez also mentioned that the Maryland Transit Authority could come to an Advisory Committee meeting to present.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.